

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

BIBLE STUDY METHODS - APPLICATION

APPLICATION - HOW DOES IT WORK?

A. Introduction

1. Quotes on the importance of application
 - a. John Henry Jowett (1864-1923), *...It is not the new birth which initially arrests the world, but the new and glorified life...a church with wings as well as feet, her dimness changed into radiance, her stammering changed into boldness, and presenting to the world the spectacle of a permanent marvel, which will fascinate and allure the inquiring multitude.*
 - b. Roy Zuck, *...when believers possess the truth without letting the truth possess them, non-Christians question the authenticity and value of Christianity.*
 - c. Anonymous quote, *Light obeyed increases light. Light rejected brings night.*
2. Biblical confirmation
 - a. Ezra 7:10, *For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it...*
 - b. James 1:22, *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*
 - c. Colossians 2:6, *...as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,*
 - d. 2 John 1:6, *And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;*
 - e. James 3:13, *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*
3. Importance of obedience in application, Oswald Chambers, *The golden rule to follow to obtain spiritual understanding is not one of intellectual pursuit, but one of obedience. If a person wants scientific knowledge, then intellectual curiosity must be his guide. But if he desires knowledge and insight into the teachings of Jesus Christ, he can only obtain it through obedience. If spiritual things seem dark and hidden to me, then I can be sure that there is a point of disobedience somewhere in my life. Intellectual darkness is the result of ignorance, but spiritual darkness is the result of something that I do not intend to obey.*

B. Steps in Application

1. Know the interpretation
 - a. Proper interpretation is based on solid observation.
 - b. The further you go down the wrong road, the further you get from right application.
2. Know your new relationships, 2 Corinthians 5:17, *...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
 - a. Your relationship to God
 - 1) Fellowship to enjoy
 - 2) Commands to obey
 - 3) Promises to claim
 - 4) Prayers to express
 - b. Your relationship to yourself
 - 1) Past background and heritage
 - 2) Present experience
 - 3) Personal values, priorities, standards
 - 4) Strengths and weaknesses
 - 5) Future expectations
 - c. Your relationship to others
 - 1) In the home
 - 2) In the church
 - 3) In society
 - 4) In the world

- d. Your relationship to the enemy
 - 1) A person to resist, 1 Peter 5:8, *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
 - 2) Devices to recognize, Matthew 10:16, *Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*
 - 3) Sins to avoid, 1 John 1:8, *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
 - 4) Armor to wear, Ephesians 6:11, *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*
3. State application in form of a principle
 - a. It should be a rule derived from the text.
 - b. It should be in line with needs, interests, issues of today.
 - c. Be specific enough to indicate a course of action.
4. Practice your application
 - a. Importance
 - 1) You have not applied until you have practiced.
 - 2) There is danger in trafficking in truth not applied.
 - 3) You cannot adequately apply to others what you have not applied to yourself.
 - b. Questions to ask
 - 1) Does this text reveal something I should believe about God?
 - 2) Does this text reveal something I should praise or thank or trust God for?
 - 3) Does this text reveal something I should pray about for myself or others?
 - 4) Does this text reveal something I should have a new attitude about?
 - 5) Does this text reveal something I should make a decision about?
 - 6) Does this text reveal something I should do for the sake of Christ, others, or myself?

C. Illustrations of valid applications (Dr. Roy Zuck)

Observation <i>What do I see?</i>	Interpretation <i>What does it mean?</i>		Application <i>How does it work?</i>
State the facts.	Determine the meaning.	Write out the principle (bridge from interpretation to application).	Decide on your response.
<u>1 Thessalonians 5:18</u> Paul told the believers in Thessalonica to give thanks in everything.	Thessalonian believers should be thankful in every circumstance of life.	Christians now should be thankful regardless of their circumstances	This week I will begin each day thanking God for my circumstances and express thanks to the Lord when some undesirable circumstance arises.
<u>Ephesians 5:25</u> Paul told Ephesian Christian husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church.	Ephesian Christian husbands should love their wives sacrificially and genuinely.	Christian husband should love their wives sacrificially and genuinely.	This week I will show love to my wife by leaving her love notes, taking her out to eat, and bringing her flowers.
<u>Exodus 31:14-15; 35:2-3;</u> <u>Numbers 15:32-36</u> An Israelite who gathers wood on the Sabbath will be stoned.	If an Israelite does not follow God's commands explicitly, God will punish him.	God punishes disobedience.	Today I will realize that God is a just God and hates disobedience and determine to obey the Lord the next time I am tempted to disobey Him.
<u>Genesis 6-8; Hebrews 11:7</u> By faith Noah prepared an ark even though rain had never fallen.	Noah obeyed God without visible evidence for doing so.	Christians today should obey God's commands even if they have no visible evidence for doing so.	Today I will obey the Lord by _____ even though it may not seem "reasonable" to do so.

CONCLUDING QUOTES

J. W. Alexander, *The study of God's Word, for the purpose of discovering God's will, is the secret discipline that has formed the greatest characters.*

Martin Luther, *No one understands Scripture unless it is brought home to them, that is, unless they experience it.*

Oswald Chambers, *The golden rule for understanding in spiritual matters is not intellect, but obedience..It is only by obedience that we understand the teaching of God..*

C. S. Lewis, *I was not born to be free. I was born to adore and to obey.*

J. Robert Ashcroft, *All heaven is waiting to help those who will discover the will of God and do it.*

Oswald Chambers, *God's Book is packed full of overwhelming riches; they are unsearchable - the more we have the more there is to have.*

John Bunyan, *I never knew all there was in the Bible until I spent those years in jail. I was constantly finding new treasures.*